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SUBJECT: TIMELINE FOR SUPPLYING COUNTER-TUNNELING EQUIPMENT
TO THE GOE

¶1. Summary: In order to improve Egyptian efforts on the Gaza border to interdict smuggling through underground tunnels, the USG is supplying the GOE with counter-tunneling equipment out of military aid funds. The program is divided into three phases to provide a command and control underground seismic-acoustic counter-tunneling detection system with the capability of detecting tunnels along ground parallel to the Egypt-Gaza border. In addition to the underground system, the USG will provide additional equipment to assist the GOE in identifying and destroying the tunnels. The GOE will receive training on the system and additional equipment in Egypt, and there is a site survey planned on the Rafah border for June. Training for Phase I is tentatively expected to be completed in November 2008, and installation on the Gaza border should begin in late November 2008. We expect the GOE to be able to begin using the system on the Gaza border in January 2009. End summary.

Phase I

¶2. Phase I of the program consists of providing a command and control seismic-acoustic counter-tunneling detection system with the capability of detecting tunnels along 3.6 kilometers of ground parallel to the Egypt-Gaza border. In coordination with the GOE, we will determine the most appropriate location on the border for the initial installation. Phase I began on March 6, 2008 when the GOE signed a Letter of Agreement (LOA), and is expected to extend until January 1, 2009 when the counter-tunneling equipment is expected to be fully operational on the border. In addition to the counter-tunneling detection system which consists of sensors buried under the ground, during Phase I we will also supply the Egyptians with the following equipment: 2 "unmanned ground vehicles," which are tethered robots to be inserted into the tunnels; 10 hand-held thermal imaging cameras to be used by Egyptian Border Guard Forces (BGF) to identify tunnels at short-range; 2 "over-watch" thermal imaging cameras that operate like binoculars to identify the tunnels at longer range; 1 electro-magnetic instrument to identify tunnels and 1 drill rig to destroy tunnels. During Phase I, we will also provide training in Egypt for Egyptian BGF personnel, and will transport and deploy the counter-tunneling system to the Rafah border.

¶3. On March 6, the GOE signed an LOA to begin the program. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) began the transfer of funds to procure the equipment for Phase I on April 1. The procurement process of the equipment listed in para 2 will continue until August 1. After August 1, USACE would set up the system for training in Egypt away from the border.

¶4. From October 13 to November 7, USACE plans to train Egyptian Border Guard Forces in Egypt on how to use the equipment. Starting November 24 following the completion of training, the USACE plans to begin installing the seismic-acoustic system on the Rafah border. Installation of the system will take approximately one month and the GOE is expected to be able to begin using the system on or about January 1, 2009 with U.S. technical assistance available to assist in the "User Test Phase." The GOE would have full operational control of the system on or about February 1, 2009 without the day-to-day U.S. technical assistance.

Phase II

¶5. Phase II would commence on or about January 1, 2009, assuming GOE concurrence to move forward. Phase II will be virtually identical to Phase I and would aim to lay down a counter-tunneling system to detect tunnels along an additional 3.6 kilometers of ground parallel to the Egypt-Gaza border. All training will have been completed in Phase I, so Phase II would entail procuring the equipment, shipping it to the border, and installing it. The same equipment would be supplied, as is outlined in para 2, although the quantities of hand-held thermal imaging cameras and long-range thermal imaging cameras would be increased to 20 and 5 respectively. These increases are simply due to small budgetary differences between the phases. Equipment procurement would continue until July 2009. Installation would take place between July and August 2009, and then the Egyptians would begin to use the equipment in a "User Test"

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arrangement between September and October 2009 with the same Technical Assistance package as Phase I. We would expect the GOE to have full operational control of the equipment in November 2009.

Phase III

¶6. Phase III would aim to supply the counter-tunneling system to detect tunnels along an additional 2.4 kilometers of ground parallel to the Egypt-Gaza border. The equipment would be the same as in para 2, except there would be 1 unmanned ground vehicle, 20 hand-held thermal imaging devices and 3 longer range thermal imaging devices. Phase III would begin with GOE approval; equipment procurement would take 3 months, installation on the Gaza border another 3 months, assessment and testing 2 months. We expect that the GOE would have full operational control of the equipment from Phase III in the fall of 2010.

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